



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20460

JUL 11 2019

OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

RE: Request Number EPA-HQ-2019-005923

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter concerns the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Freedom of Information Office in which you are seeking:

“I seek any and all documents in the agency's possession that pertain to the WikiLeaks website or organization from January 2006 to the present date, including but not limited to emails, memos, notes, briefings, reports and other documents related to, mentioning or generated as a result of:

- \* guidance and instructions for employees regarding visiting the website or otherwise reading or learning about it in the news
- \* internal reactions to the website's existence and disclosures
- \* damage reports regarding the website and its disclosures
- \* efforts to identify, investigate and/or mitigate potential leaks to the website
- \* efforts to identify, investigate and/or mitigate potential unauthorized viewing of the website or news reports analyzing it and/or its contents.”

Your request does not reasonably describe the records you are seeking in a way that will permit EPA employees to identify and locate them. The EPA's FOIA regulations explain:

“Whenever possible, your request should include specific information about each record

sought, such as the title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter. If known, you should include any file designations or descriptions for the records that you want. The more specific you are about the records or type of records that you want, the more likely EPA will be able to identify and locate records responsive to your request.” 40 C.F.R. § 2.102(c).

Your request, as initially written and clarified on June 5, 2019, does not provide EPA with information sufficient to process your FOIA request. EPA needs additional information in order to identify and locate agency records responsive to your request. Specifically, EPA needs you to provide additional information regarding at least one of the following items:

- The EPA Program office(s) you believe may have relevant records (e.g., Administrator’s Office; Office of Public Affairs, Office of Water);
- A list of EPA custodians you believe may have relevant records identified by name or staff title position (e.g., Office Director, Branch Chief, Toxicologist); or  
The subject matter(s) that may be related to this request (e.g., Clean Air Act, Waters of the US).

Since you have not provided a telephone number we are unable to connect with you directly. Please contact Wendy Schumacher via email at [schumacher.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:schumacher.wendy@epa.gov) or (202) 566-2513 with your clarification or I can be reached at (202) 566-1667 if you have any questions concerning this letter. If we do not hear back from you by July 26, 2019, we will close your request.

Cordially,



Larry F. Gottesman  
Agency FOIA Officer